

PLATYSTOMATIDAE SCHINER, 1862: PROPOSED CONSERVATION
AS A FAMILY-GROUP NAME OVER ACHIIDAE FLEMING, 1821
(INSECTA, DIPTERA). Z.N.(S.) 2053

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A large, worldwide group of acalyptate Diptera has been known as Platystomidae, Platystomatidae, Platystominae, or Platystomatinae, either as a family or as a subfamily of Otitidae (=Ortalidae) ever since its proposal by Schiner, 1862 : 151, as Platystominae. The taxon has also been designated by family-group names bearing a few other endings, but all based upon the genus-name *Platystoma* Meigen, 1803 (genitive *platystomatis*).

2. It is clear, however, that the family-group name Achiidae, based upon the genus-name *Achias* Fabricius, 1805 (genitive *achiae*) and first used by Fleming (1821 : 55) in the form Achiasidae, has priority over Platystomatidae. The only other instances of the use of group-names based upon *Achias* that we can find are the following:

(Familia) Achiidarum – Wiedemann. 1830 : 11.

Achiadae – Bigot, 1852 : 486.

Achiasidae – Fleming, 1822 : 846 (vol. 2); Bigot, 1853 : 312; 1892 : 191.

Achiides – Walker, 1857 : 36; 1859 : 121; 1864 : 229.

Achinae – Schiner, 1868 : 229.

Achiinae – Brauer, 1880 : 118 (14).

3. The 2 genera *Achias* and *Platystoma* are closely related to each other and have generally been placed in the same narrowest named group since Hendel (1914a, 1914b) placed both in the final section of his generic keys under the titles "Lamprogastrina und Platystomina" and "Lamprogastrina, Loxoneurina, und Platystomina" respectively. These group-taxa were, however, not further defined. As a small selection of the more comprehensive works wherein the name Platystomatidae or other forms based upon the same generic name have been used, the following may be cited:

Becker et al. (1905, as Platystomina); Bezzi (1928, as Platystominae); Brues and Melander (1932); Brues, Melander and Carpenter (1954); Colyer and Hammond (1951); Enderlein (1924, as Platystomidae, incl. *Achias*); Harrison (1959, as Platystomidae); Hendel (1914a, 1914b, as Platystomina); Hennig (1945, as Platystomidae); Malloch (1939, as Platystominae, incl. *Achias*); Séguy (1934, as Platystomidae).

4. In view of these circumstances, amounting to an overwhelming predominance of usage of the names based upon *Platystoma* and virtual discarding of any based upon *Achias*, we petition the Commission:—

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for the Law of Homonymy the family-group name ACHIIDAE Fleming, 1821;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name PLATYSTOMATIDAE Schiner, 1862, Wien. ent. Monatschr. 6 : 151 (as PLATYSTOMINAE); type-genus *Platystoma* Meigen, 1803 (genitive stem Platystomat-);
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name ACHIIDAE Fleming, 1821, in *Suppl. Encycl. Brit.*, vol. 5 : 55 (as Achiasidae); type-genus *Achias* Fabricius, 1805 (genitive stem Achi-).

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